<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY</u>

<u>LETTER PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:</u>

1   1.   A communications terminal connected to at least one of a

2   telephone line and a local area network, comprising: 5/5693

3   a first memory which stores service information including availability

4   information representing availability of a specific communications service

5   provided by a service provider through said at least one of the telephone line

6   and the local area network and condition information suitable for said specific

7   communications service;

8   a second memory which stores message information indicating that

9   said specific communications service is not usable;

10   a detector configured to detect whether said service information stored

11   in said first memory is appropriate each time said communications terminal

12   starts a call connection operation to use said specific communications service

13   based on said condition information; and

14   an indicating mechanism configured to read said first memory and to

15   indicate said message information indicating that said specific communications

16   service is not usable when said detector detects that said service information

17   stored in said first memory is inappropriate.

1   2.   A facsimile apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising

2   a third memory which stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate

3   a cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable,

4   wherein said indicating mechanism is further configured to read said third

5   memory and to indicate said guidance information upon a predetermined input

6   for starting a guidance indication operation after said indicating mechanism

7   indicates said message information indicating that said specific communications

8   service is not usable.

1   3.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 1, further

2   comprising a third memory which stores guidance information for guiding a way

3   to eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not

4   usable, wherein said indicating mechanism is further configured to read said

5   third memory and to indicate said guidance information when a predetermined

6   time has elapsed after said indicating mechanism indicates said message

7   information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

1   4.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 1, wherein said

2   second memory further stores guidance information for guiding a way to

3   eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not

4   usable and said indicating mechanism indicates said message information

5   indicating that said specific communications service is not usable and said

6   guidance information when said detector detects that said service information

7   stored in said first memory is inappropriate.

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1   5.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said

2   indicating mechanism indicates said message information and said guidance

3   information with a display.

1   6.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said

2   indicating mechanism sends said message information and said guidance

3   information to a sound mechanism to output said message information and said

4   guidance information as a voice message.

1   7.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 4, wherein said

2   indicating mechanism sends said message information and said guidance

3   information to a printing apparatus to output said message information and said

4   guidance information on a recording sheet.

1   8.   A communications terminal connected to at least one of a

2   telephone line and a local area network, comprising:

3   first memory means for storing service information including availability

4   information representing availability of a specific communications service

5   provided by a service provider through said at least one of the telephone line

6   and the local area network and condition information suitable for said specific

7   communications service;

8   second memory means for storing message information indicating that

9   said specific communications service is not usable;

10   detecting means for detecting whether said service information stored

11   in said first memory means is appropriate each time when said communications

12   terminal starts a call connection operation to use said specific communications

13   service based on said condition information; and

14   indicating means for reading said first memory means and indicating

15   said message information indicating that said specific communications service

16   is not usable when said detecting means detects that said service information

17   stored in said first memory means is inappropriate.

1   9.   A facsimile apparatus as defined in Claim 8, further comprising

2   third memory means for storing guidance information for guiding a way to

3   eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not

4   usable, wherein said indicating means further reads said third memory means

5   and indicates said guidance information upon a predetermined input for starting

6   a guidance indication operation after said indicating means indicates said

7   message information indicating that said specific communications service is not

8   usable.

1   10.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 8, further

2   comprising third memory means for storing guidance information for guiding a

3   way to eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is

4   not usable, wherein said indicating means further reads said third memory

5   means and indicates said guidance information when a predetermined time has

6   elapsed after said indicating mechanism indicates said message information

7   indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

1   11.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 8, wherein said

2   second memory means further stores guidance information for guiding a way to

3   eliminate a cause due to which said specific communications service is not

4   usable and said indicating means indicates said message information indicating

5   that said specific communications service is not usable and said guidance

6   information when said detecting means detects that said service information

7   stored in said first memory means is inappropriate.

1   12.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein

2   said indicating means indicates said message information and said guidance

3   information with a display.

1   13.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein

2   said indicating means sends said message information and said guidance

3   information to a sound mechanism to output said message information and said

4   guidance information as a voice message.

1   14.   A communications terminal as defined in Claim 11, wherein

2   said indicating means sends said message information and said guidance

3   information to a printing apparatus to output said message information and said

4   guidance information on a recording sheet.

1   15.   A method of using a specific communications service provided

2   by a service provider, comprising the steps of:

3   providing service information including availability information

4   representing availability of said specific communications service on a

5   communications terminal connected to at least one of a telephone line and a

6   local area network and condition information suitable for said specific

7   communications service;

8   a first storing step of storing message information indicating that said

9   specific communications service is not usable;

10   detecting whether said service information provided in said providing

11   step is appropriate each time a call connection operation is started on said

12   communications terminal to use said specific communications service based on

13   said condition information;

14   reading said service information; and

15   indicating that said specific communications service is not usable when

16   said detecting step detects that said service information provided in said

17   providing step is inappropriate.

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1   16.   A method as defined in Claim 15, further comprising a second

2   storing step for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a

3   cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable, wherein

4   said reading step reads said guidance information and said indicating step

5   indicates said guidance information upon a predetermined input for starting a

6   guidance indication operation after said indicating step indicates said message

7   information indicating that said specific communications service is not usable.

1   17.   A method as defined in Claim 15, further comprising a second

2   storing step for storing guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a

3   cause due to which said specific communications service is not usable, wherein

4   said reading step reads said guidance information and said indicating step

5   indicates said guidance information when a predetermined time has elapsed

6   after said indicating step indicates said message information indicating that said

7   specific communications service is not usable.

1   18.   A method as defined in Claim 15, wherein said first storing step

2   further stores guidance information for guiding a way to eliminate a cause due

3   to which said specific communications service is not usable and said indicating

4   step indicates said message information indicating that said specific

5   communications service is not usable and said guidance information when said

6   detecting step detects that said service information provided in said providing

7   step is inappropriate.

1   19.   A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step

2   indicates said message information and said guidance information with a

3   display.

1   20.   A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step

2   sends said message information and said guidance information to a sound

3   mechanism to output said message information and said guidance information

4   as a voice message.

1   21.   A method as defined in Claim 18, wherein said indicating step

2   sends said message information and said guidance information to a printing

3   apparatus to output said message information and said guidance information on

4   a recording sheet.

1   22.   A computer readable medium storing computer instructions for

2   performing the steps recited in any one of Claims 15 - 21.

1   23.   A communications terminal used with a communication service

2   provided by service providers, comprising:

3   information storage for 1) service information including availability

4   information indicative of availability of one or more communication services

5   provided by one or more service providers, 2) condition information suitable for

6   the respective communication services, and 3) message information indicative

7   or whether the respective one or more communication services are usable;

8   detection facilities communicating with said information storage in

9   relation to an initiation of a call connection operation seeking to use a selected

10   communication service to detect if the selected communication service is

11   suitable in relation to condition information stored in said information storage;

12   and

13   an indicating facility communicating with said information storage in

14   relation to a detection by the detection facility that the selected communication

15   service is not suitable to provide an indication thereof.